

TAFT NOMINATES HE WILL ACCEPT OFFER

Former President, However, Will Not Direct Affairs of Leagues.

AWAITS MORE DETAILS

Requests Information on Duties He Would Be Asked to Fulfill.

By FREDERICK G. LIEB.

William Howard Taft, former President of the United States, intimated yesterday that he might accept a position as arbitrator for the National and American baseball leagues. Last Saturday he was asked by Presidents Harry N. Hemphill and John J. McGraw to become a sort of a one man national commissioner of baseball.

While Mr. Taft intimated yesterday that he might give the offer favorable consideration he made it plain that he would not assume any other of the functions of the National Commission.

He plainly stipulated that he would take no part in the management of any of the baseball institutions. The former President's statement, which was sent to the Public Ledger of Philadelphia, follows:

"Mr. Hemphill and Mr. McGraw called on me Saturday to ask me if I would consider acting as arbitrator between the National and American baseball leagues. In matters involving the construction of the National and American leagues and their application to transactions between them as they might arise, I said to them that I did not wish to be asked to act as an arbitrator, but that I had acted as arbitrator in several cases."

"I said that if they would write me a description of the kind of arbitration in which they wished me to act and the particular function they wished me to perform I would consider it and advise them. I could not act except as a judge of law and fact in any way take part in management of their associations."

"It must be work of a strictly legal professional character. I said further that I wished to consult my brother Charles to be assured by him that he had parted with all interest in baseball leagues so that should no dispute arise no question could arise as to my impartiality between parties contending before me."

Needs Cooperation.

This shows that with proper cooperation by the presidents of the National and American leagues Mr. Taft might accept the position as arbitrator and give the sport the benefit of his prestige as well as his trained legal mind.

For some time, it has become evident that many of the duties of the present National Commission were absolutely superfluous.

It is evident that the offer made by Presidents Hemphill and McGraw of the Red Sox and Giants respectively, was known to only a coterie of Eastern club owners and had no real authority.

With the cards all on the table it is evident a "bloodless" revolution was intended to sweep August Herrmann the chief of the National Commission, and Ban Johnson, president of the American League, out of power. If President Taft will consent to act as arbitrator to settle disputes between the two leagues, the revolution will be successful, as it will remove all necessity for continuing Herrmann in office.

President Johnson of the American League was in New York yesterday, but refused to be interviewed. It was said yesterday that he had given orders to his secretary to refuse to see anyone.

Charles H. Ebbets, president of the Brooklyn Nationals, lost little time in indicating the attitude of the Brooklyn club owners and had no real authority.

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NINE IN ROW FOR STOKELY.

Runs Away From Harriers in Morningglade Race.

For the ninth consecutive time William J. Stokely, of the St. Christopher Club won the four and a half mile run of the Morningglade Athletic Club for the club's regular course in the Bronx yesterday afternoon.

As in his previous races Stokely won as he pleased. He led W. Jackson, a New York native, to the tape by fifty yards. Stokely took the lead at the start and held the honor position throughout. He was clocked in 24 minutes 25 seconds.

ALBRIGHT LEADS DIX TO TRIUMPH

His Fine Playing Enables Soldiers to Beat Mineola.

By GEORGE B. UNDERWOOD.

High up in the gray curtain of clouds that hung over Ebbets Field yesterday afternoon Sergeant Albright, the Mineola flier, won the recent State of Liberty race, did a superb dash in the 100 yard race, did a superb dash in the 100 yard race, did a superb dash in the 100 yard race.

Suddenly he swooped earthward and endeavored to drop a football into the lap of a Mineola player. The ball, however, was caught by a Mineola player and the game was on.

Albright's fine playing enabled the soldiers to beat Mineola 12 to 0.

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PITT TEACHES ALL HIGH LIGHTS AND SHADOWS IN ALL SPHERES OF SPORT

BY DANIEL.

UNLESS he is willing to give certain assurances and accept the position in the spirit and mental attitude in which he would take the presidency of a college or a railroad system; unless he is ready to meet exacting demands on his time; unless those who seek his services are ready to make the financial return commensurate with such demands.

As the good and bad features of the appeal to William Howard Taft to become the dictator in organized baseball, balance themselves slightly against the proposition. There is no doubt that Mr. Taft would lend to professional baseball a poise and dignity in which it has been lacking.

There is no question that the game needs one big, strong figure, who will command at once both the respect and the obedience of leagues and factions within leagues and would dominate in the decisions of organized baseball.

It is true that by reason of his genuine interest in the game, his long training and his position as former President of this country Mr. Taft is admirably fitted for selection as a one man National Commission.

Perhaps he is better fitted for the place than any other man who might be mentioned.

Apartment from the effect of his domination in the business of baseball in this country, Mr. Taft would exercise a most salutary influence in the spread of the game.

Baseball has reached out to other countries, in some of which it is regarded as a most important factor in the life of the people.

The very fact that a man who once held the highest position within the gift of the American nation thought well enough of baseball to become its court of last resort would have an incalculable effect on the sport loving people outside our borders.

Taken all in all, it becomes apparent that the idea of having a one man National Commission, with a figure such as Mr. Taft holding the position, is an admirable one and if worked out well would have a beneficial effect on the game.

Manner of Offering the Position Was Ill Advised.

However, there are drawbacks in the proposition and these are developed by the manner in which Harry Hemphill and Harry Frazee approached Mr. Taft. From the tenor of their remarks it is evident that they went to Mr. Taft in an attitude of near supplication.

They practically begged him to take it—no matter what the cost. In the statement issued jointly by Messrs. Hemphill and Frazee last Saturday night they said: "Our reason for hoping that Mr. Taft will make a favorable decision is that it would require very little of his time and interfere with any of his present activities."

If we remember rightly a similar phrase occurred in the appeal to John K. Tener, then Governor of Pennsylvania, to accept the presidency of the National League and lift the senior organization out of the slough of despond. Gov. Tener too was assured that the job would take very little of his time, in substance, that he would be president and John Heydler would do the work.

We all know how that scheme worked out. The league could not or would not pay Mr. Taft. The league found that it could not run itself mainly on gubernatorial dignity and that there was a volume of work which belonged to the president and could be done well by no one else.

Position Offered Mr. Taft Bigger Than a League President's.

The position as a one man National Commission would require quite the whole-hearted attention of any man, no matter what his capacity for quick decisions and his executive efficiency. The duties which Mr. Taft is asked to take up would be far more exacting and important than those of a league president. Organized Baseball should not approach him with the plea that it would take only a little of his time. That is a false premise which would lead to a lot of trouble.

Baseball has become a big business. Millions are invested in franchises, ball parks, rights to players and even good will. The game wants a man who will put Organized Baseball on a real business like basis, but withal, will, for the fan, sink the business of the game far in the background.

It is apparent that the job is a big one—no more "one afternoon in the week" proposition. The man who takes it must be ready to devote his whole time to it, but he must not merely to add dignity but to do a big service for American baseball.

MIDY, WHO CAUSED HAGAN-ANDERSON NAVY'S DEFEAT, IS ILL

Saunders Says He Lost His Head During Critical Time.

Special Dispatch to THE SUN.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Nov. 24.—The act of Mideham, who caused the Navy's defeat, is ill. The act of Mideham, who caused the Navy's defeat, is ill.

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REMER MAKES TWO WAITING RECORDS

Beats Old American Figures for Eight Miles and One Hour at Macombs Park.

Richard F. Remer of the New York Athletic Club, the national seven-mile walking champion and the holder of several local walking records, accomplished the greatest feat of his career yesterday afternoon. He established two new American records in the United States.

Remer walked eight miles and one hour and 14 minutes 34 seconds, beating the old American record of 1 hour 15 minutes 34 seconds.

He also walked one hour and 14 minutes 34 seconds, beating the old American record of 1 hour 15 minutes 34 seconds.

Remer was seen by the veteran walker as he walked the eight miles and one hour and 14 minutes 34 seconds.

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AMERICAN GIRLS QUEEN OF SPEEDWAY

J. Manning's Mare Leads All Local Trotters—Silent Sister Best Pacer.

American Girl, a chestnut mare owned by J. Manning, was declared the trotting champion and Silent Sister, a bay mare owned by J. Leonard, the best pacer at the final matinee meeting of the Road Drivers Association on the Harlem Speedway yesterday afternoon.

American Girl trotted up a total of 34 points during the season, while Silent Sister, a bay mare owned by J. Leonard, scored 27 points.

In the final race the chestnut mare trotted 23 points, while Silent Sister trotted 23 points, while Silent Sister trotted 23 points.

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NEW YORK SOCCER TEAM VANQUISHED

Outplayed by Morse Dry Dock Eleven in Contest at Lenox Oval.

The soccer eleven representing the Morse Dry Dock and Repair Company of Brooklyn vanquished the New York State football team yesterday afternoon at Lenox Oval.

The Morse Dry Dock team, coached by J. H. Case, defeated the New York State team, coached by J. H. Case, 3 to 1.

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ROD AND GUN NEWS

HIGH WATER FOR LOCAL ANGLERS FROM NOVEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 1.

Anglers in the Hudson River and its tributaries have had a most successful season. The water has been high and the fish have been plentiful.

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